

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a messaging system, a method of handling a voice mail message and an email message of a subscriber comprising the steps of:

- receiving an incoming call from a caller,
- prompting the caller to leave a message,
- recording the voice message in a voice mail box storage facility on a voice mail server,
- recording the retrieval status of the voice message in a voice message status indicator on the voice mail server
- sending a copy of the voice message to an email server,
- saving the copied voice message in a voice message storage facility on the email server,
- recording the retrieval status of the voice message in a voice message status indicator on the email server,
- notifying the subscriber of the voice message sent to the email server, and
- updating the retrieval status of the voice message in the voice message status indicator in the voice mail server and in the voice message status indicator in the email server when the subscriber accesses one of the voice mail and email servers to retrieve the voice message,
- receiving an email message through the email server,
- storing the email message in an email storage facility on the email server,
- sending a copy of the email message to the voice mail server,
- converting the email message to an audio format,

saving the converted email message in a converted email storage facility on the voice mail server,

recording the retrieval status of the converted email message in a converted email status indicator in the voice mail server, and

updating the retrieval status of the email message in the email status indicator in the email server and in the converted email status indicator in the voice mail server when the subscriber accesses one of the email or voice mail servers to retrieve the email message.

2. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising detecting on-line presence of the subscriber, and in response to said detecting, alerting an on-line subscriber of the presence of a new voice message.
3. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein in said sending a copy of the voice message to the email server step, the copy of the voice message is an audio version of the voice message recorded on the voice mail server.
4. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein in said sending a copy of the voice message to the email server step, the copy of the voice message is a text version of the voice message recorded on the voice mail server.
5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 8~~1~~, wherein said converting the email message to an audio format step includes performing text-to-speech conversion.

10. (currently amended) An integrated message management system for processing voice mail messages and email messages including:

a voice mail server that records and stores conventional voice mail messages in a voice mail box storage facility, sends copies of voice mail messages to an email server, and includes a status indicator for each of the voice mail messages stored in the voice mail box storage facility,

an email server that stores voice mail messages as email in a "voice mail stored as email" storage facility, sends notice of new voice mail messages to a subscriber, and includes a status indicator ~~generator for generating an indication~~ for each of the voice mail messages stored as email messages, and

wherein the email server also stores conventional email messages in an email storage facility, sends copies of the email messages to the voice mail server, and includes a status indicator for each of the conventional email messages.

wherein the voice mail server converts the email messages to voice mail messages using a text-to-speech conversion module, stores the converted email messages in an "email stored as voice mail" storage facility, and includes a status indicator for each converted email message,

a message manager that links together the voice mail server and email server, controls all interaction between the voice mail server and email server, and

updates the retrieval status indicator ~~generator~~ of a voice mail message on the voice mail server when the subscriber accesses the voice mail message as email on the email server, and

updates the retrieval status indicator of the voice mail message as email on the email server when the subscriber accesses the voice mail message on the voice mail server,

updates the retrieval status indicator of a converted email message on the voice mail server when the subscriber accesses the email message on the email server,
and

updates the retrieval status indicator of the email message on the email server when the subscriber accesses the converted email message on the voice mail server.

11. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 10, further including a presence server that provides indication as to whether the subscriber is connected to the Internet, and wherein the email server only sends notice to the subscriber if the presence server indicates that the subscriber is connected to the Internet.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)